

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MERCANTILE NEWS

The Museum Store, Helena, Montana

January-March 2008

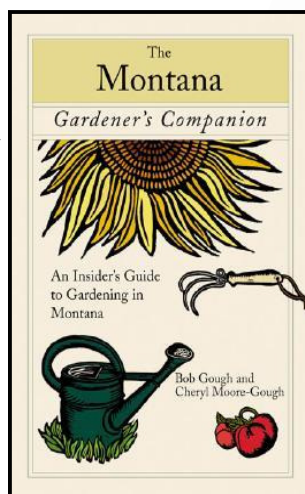
Volume 2, Issue 1

Just Off The Freight Train

There is always time to find great gifts at the Museum Store for those special people in your life or just for yourself. And lately we've gathered a bumper crop of NEW and exciting books and other sundry items. We implore you to take another walk through the Museum Store or pick up a copy of our newly released catalog.

A few of our new products:

- Montana embroidered and screen printed items including: pillows, dishtowels, napkins, and drinking glasses by Catstudio
- Copper cuff bracelets designed and handwrought at Ildanach Studios



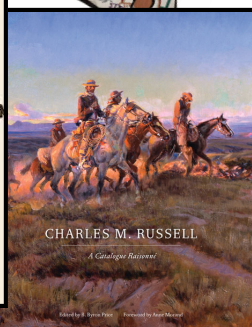
Pictured Above: *The Montana Gardener's Companion: An Insider's Guide to Gardening in Montana*, Embroidered Montana pillow by Catstudio, *Charles M. Russell Catalogue Raisonne*.

- *One Woman's Montana* by Kathe LeSage

- *Downhill in Montana: Early Day Skiing in the Treasure State* by Stan Cohen



- *Downhill Skiing* by Stan Cohen
- *Where Custer Fell: Photographs of the Little Bighorn Battlefield Then and Now* by James S. Brust, Brian C. Pohanka, and Sandy Barnard



- *Blackfoot War Art: Pictographs of the Reservation Period, 1880-2000* by L. James Dempsey
- *Food of Gods and Starvelings: The Selected Poems of Grace Stone Coates* edited by Lee Rostad and Rick Newby

New DVD's on

hand to add to your collection:

- *Yellowstone Earthquake: The Story of the 1959 Hebgen Lake Disaster (7.6 on the Richter scale)*
- *Best of Backroads of Montana—Volume V* by Montana PBS
- *Best of Backroads of Montana—Volume VI* by Montana PBS

And remember, along with a pleasant greeting and a smile you can qualify for a sizeable discount on merchandise in the store (MHS members, MHS employees, Montana State Agencies, Libraries and Schools).

Please come by and see all the new and time-tested "goodies" that line the shelves of your very own MHS Museum Store.

Happy Shopping,

Sherry Jonckheere, Museum Store Manager
Gordon Defendorf, Store & Shipping Clerk
JoAnn Meredith, Store Clerk

Coming Soon To A Shelf Near You

BOOKS:

- *Montana Place Names: From Alzada to Zortman* (MHS Press)
- *Pit Driver: Reminiscences of a Berkeley Pit Haul-Truck Driver* by Bill Long
- *The American Boy's Handy Book* by D.C. Beard
- *The American Girl's Handy Book* by D.C. Beard
- *The Field and Forest Handy Book* by D.C. Beard
- *Ghost Towns and Mining Districts of Montana* by Terry Halden
- *Notches, Stick Game, Thunder Horse, and Wolf No Wolf—Montana mysteries featuring Gabriel DuPre* by Peter Bowen (recommended by R. Aarsted)

- *Counting Coup: Becoming a Crow Chief on the Reservation and Beyond* (children's book) by Joseph Medicine Crow

GENERAL MERC:

- Chuck and James Soft & Chewy Granola (made in Sidney, MT)
- MHS brand coffee: Bronc to Breakfast Dark Roast Blend, and Keeoma Light Roast Blend

The Defendorf Report by Gordon Defendorf

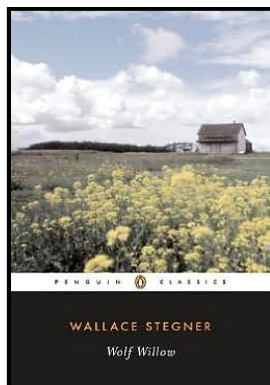
A REVIEW OF:

Wolf Willow: A History, a Story, and a Memory of the Last Plains Frontier (1962)

-By Wallace Stegner

Wallace Stegner was born in Iowa in 1909 and in the spring of 1914 relocated with his family to the Saskatchewan – Montana border – Cypress Hills country. He, his parents and older brother lived in the newly formed town of Whitemud on the Frenchman (or Whitemud) River and homesteaded until 1920. Unknown to the families, the boys and their playmates, the last days of the Plains Frontier played out in their very neighborhood.

Years later, at nearly 50, Stegner revisits



Wolf Willow by Wallace Stegner. Available for purchase in the Museum Store

the country where he grew up a self described “sensuous little savage”. Before entering town, he wanders along the river and a smell permeates the air which he remembers from his youth. Stegner searches out the fragrance which turns out to be a non descript gray-leaved bush with small yellow flowers – wolf willow.

In *Wolf Willow*, Stegner recreates for the reader the complete package of the past including the Indians of the area, their culture and beliefs of the sacred Cypress Hills; the metis – the mixed blood French – Indian peoples unique to the area; the Hudson’s Bay Company Traders and the formation of the Royal Canadian Mounted

Police-the Mounties- in Stegner literary prose.

Wolf Willow is a combination of place centered history – the Cypress Hills, the Bear Paw Mountains, the Sweet Grass Hills border country; a Stegner family memoir – some of which the reader may recognize from “The Big Rock Candy Mountain”; and a fictional account of the Canadian cattle ranching disaster during the winter of 1906-07. Stegner recreates, in novella form, “Genesis” – a story which parallels the Montana open range experience of 20 years earlier during which a young Charlie Russell created “Waiting for a Chinook – the Last of the 5000”.

In *Wolf Willow*, Wallace Stegner masterfully recreates the environment of his own roots on the last of the Homestead Frontiers.

Another great read for this second installment of the Defendorf Report—5-Aprons*.



**The 5-Apron Rating system is based on a 1-apron to 5-apron range. (i.e., Gordon gives a 1-apron to those books he least recommends, a 2 to 4-apron for mediocre, average or middle-of-the-road recommendations, and a 5-apron rating for his highest recommended reads.)*

MMWH Winter '07 Edition Out With the New Year

Still looking for a really nice gift to give to someone this year? MMWH Subscriptions are \$29 for one year or \$55 for two years.



Memberships begin at \$45.00 (and include a MMWH subscription).

The MMWH Winter '07 edition includes the following:

- Wallace Stegner’s Formative Years in Saskatchewan and Montana by Philip L. Fradkin
- ‘A Residual Frontier Town’: Wallace Stegner’s Salt Lake City by Robert Steensma
- The Fight for Crow Water: The Early Reservation Years Through the Indian New Deal, Part I by Megan Benson

Book Review by Jill Pierson

The Ghost of Schafer Meadows, a novel by Beth Hodder, is a wonderful story about a girl named Jessie, who has to adapt to a new town where there is no electricity and few people to make friends with. To help ease the pain of moving, Jessie’s father bought her a puppy named Oriole. At first, moving to Montana was difficult for Jessie; she had to say goodbye to her friends and hang out in the strange town of Schafer Meadows. Jessie was a strong character. I would be devastated if I had to move to a creepy town without television or my cell phone. To pass the time, Jessie and Oriole explored their new home and tried to solve the mysteries of stolen food and a ghost that would not leave her alone.

This book was interesting, full of mystery, adventurous, and about making friends. Being from Montana, it was nice to read a book that I could relate to. If you like mysterious and fantastic books, this is the book for you.

- Jill Pierson (reviewed 11/07)

Tammy Ryan, MHS employee, recently took advantage of our sample corner, and checked out a review copy of *The Ghost of Schafer Meadows* for her neighbor and MHS Volunteer, Jill Pierson. Jill is freshman at Helena High School. Thank you Jill for your contribution and input!

- ‘Our Genial Photographer’: The Life and Times of Henry D. Weenink by D. Lyle Dechant
- ‘Not-So-Buried Treasures: Exploring the On-line Resources of the Montana Historical Society Research Center by Jodie Foley and Roberta Gebhardt
- ‘So You Want to Be Published?’ by Stan Lynde
- A Guide to Self-Publishing Your Book
- Montana Book Roundup by Sue Hart
- Book Reviews

On the Cover—In 1935, Governor Frank H. Cooney crowned Mary Catherine “Kay” McCarthy queen of the first annual Montana Winter Sports Carnival during a spectacular ball at the Montana Hotel in Anaconda.